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Upon
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Introduction

In presenting the following Dissertation, I institute no claim to originality. There is such a thirst for novelty in the present day, that something new, appears essential, to elevate a person to eminence, or even respectability, in their professions. We disclaim all such ambition; and resign to others, those prospects of perennial fame, accruing from dressing in a new guise, theories taught, and forgotten, with "years before the flood," but now palmed upon the world, as the offspring of their prolific brains. It may perhaps be imagined, that nothing has a greater tendency to chill the energies of genius, and damp laudable emulation, than the sentiment, that in this enlightened age of medical science, we should be contented with an acquaintance, and appropriation, of the knowledge, and discoveries, of those who have preceded us. Rather than give loose to the imagination, and launch into the boundless, and devious fields of hypothesis, and speculation, be it our humbler province, to lay down judicious principles, and rules, for the treatment of diseases. In this exercise, our object has been to describe accurately, the symptoms, causes, terminations, and treatment of Hepatitis; a disease, from which, few are exempt, and more especially assails those, who indulge in the gratification of their propensities, and appetites, and is a very frequent concomitant, upon the intemperance of warm climates

The Liver is the largest viscus in the body, and in consequence of its complete sovereignty over the digestive process, holds a very important rank in the animal economy. Previous to entering into a description of the diseases, to which the liver is exposed, it will be necessary to give, a concise anatomical, and physiological account of it. The liver is a large glandular body, situated in the right hypochondrium, extending thro' the epigastric, and a part of the left hypochondriac, regions, and in the foetus, fills nearly the whole abdomen, and covers the stomach, and is in contact with the spleen. Being in the adult placed immediately under, and in contact with the diaphragm, as well as the right hypochondrium, partakes of their form, and is concave below, and convex above. Thus situated, it is of an irregular figure, between the circle, and oval, broader at the right side than the left, and very irregular in thickness. The edge which is in contact with the right hypochondriac region, is very thick — it gradually becomes thinner towards the left, and front. The liver is smooth, and regular, upon its upper surface, upon its under concave surface, made rough by several grooves, or fissures, and eminences. This organ is retained in its situation by several ligaments; but it

must be confessed, that it is susceptible of considerable motion, by respiration, the action of the diaphragm, and positions of the body. Besides the four ligaments, which are reflections of the peritoneum, including the umbilical vein in the foetus, degenerated into a ligament in the adult, the vena cava, vena portarum, hepatic artery, venae cavae hepaticae (to be explained presently) a distended state of the stomach, and colon, touching the liver on its anterior edge, may also be considered as auxiliary supports to this viscus. Its fissures are, the Umbilical, which commences at a notch in the anterior edge of the liver, to the left of the middle, and continues to the posterior edge. Where this fissure begins, the Umbilical ligament enters, and at, or near its termination, the Vena Cava, is situated. This fissure divides the liver into its great lobes, the right and left. Another great fissure, called the transverse, or principal, commencing in the right lobe, and extending to the left, crosses the first at right angles. It is very deep, and nearer the posterior, than the anterior edge of the liver. Near to the right extremity of this fissure, the vena portarum, and the hepatic artery enter, and the hepatic duct emerges. About the middle of the fissure, are situated two prominences, one on each side, which were called the portae. Besides the great lobes above men-

-tional lobe, or three prominent parts on the concave surface denominated lobes. One lobe is called the Spigelian lobe, situated between the posterior part of the lesser lobe and the vena cava. Another shooting downwards, from the middle of the last mentioned lobe, to the venous sinus, resembles a process. The lobe is denominated the caudate. Between the umbilical fissure and the depression for the gall bladder is a protuberance called the pyramid, or lobulus Quadratus, or Anonymus.

The Viscera had five systems of vessels, appropriated to the performance of the functions of the liver, which are the largest branch of the aorta, the two vena cavæ, or portal veins, which come out of the liver passing to its posterior part, the diaphragm and gastric cavity together, and have in their principles, that is to say, the smallest ramifications of blood from the hepatic artery, and the vena portarum. The veins receive the sensibility from the nerves which pass from the coeliac plexus, formed by the splanchnic nerves and the pneumogastric plexus, the pneumogastric, and the lesser branch of the intercostal, and the phrenic nerve, which come out from the spinal marrow, and the coeliac plexus from the phrenic nerve, which comes out from the right and left hepatic plexus which surround the hepatic artery and vena portarum, and accompany them in their ramifications through

the liver, which is invested by Glisson's Capsule. The ligaments of the liver, are coronary, falciform and the superficial and deep scalpel. The coronary covers the diaphragm and the stomach, liver contents [illegible] the latter emerge from the liver at the porta and unite with the thoracic duct in the abdomen. The gall-bladder [illegible] is a reservoir for the liver, is of a reddish brown color and [illegible] a molecular [illegible] in [illegible] divided, [illegible] the mouths of the [illegible] ducts. When the internal surface [illegible] is exposed [illegible] considerable [illegible] acinus, or small bodies, [illegible] other. The [illegible] duct is formed of very minute [illegible], called pore biliarie, which originate from the acini [illegible], and [illegible] together, form finally the [illegible] common duct, is very strong, and firm, and [illegible] the transverse fissure of the liver, about an inch and a half below, [illegible] with a duct from the gall-bladder, called Cystic, have united in an acute angle, [illegible] the duodenum, on an [illegible] tubercle, [illegible] on the [illegible] the gall-bladder is shaped like a pear with a long neck, is situated in a superficial fossa [illegible] the convex surface of the right lobe of the liver, and its fundus often projects a little beyond the anterior edge of this lobe. The gall bladder is [illegible] expansions, for the [illegible] bile secreted by the liver, from which it differs thus: the [illegible] duct, and the [illegible]

[illegible] the cystic duct, [illegible] of its termination. On inflammation, and obstruction [illegible] commenced, the [illegible] considerable quantity, and the gall bladder becomes much distended. The gall bladder received an external coat from the [illegible] [illegible]. The Vena Portarum, [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]. The trunk [illegible] from the [illegible] which [illegible] then [illegible] the [illegible] which it enters at the [illegible] and there divides into two branches, which [illegible] the [illegible] lobes. These branches [illegible] minute branches, [illegible] these vessels and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] intimate connection between [illegible] systems [illegible], it is said, that [illegible] be [illegible], the [illegible] into the [illegible]. It [illegible] said the [illegible] with the Vena Portarum, [illegible] [illegible] stuck in [illegible] the [illegible] continues [illegible]. Mr. Abernethy in the Philosophical Transactions reports a case, which [illegible] remarkable [illegible] the [illegible] Vena Portarum [illegible] [illegible] common. The Vena Portarum [illegible] in the usual way, but [illegible]

vena cava, and on a line with the renal veins. The liver and of the usual size, but one half projecting into the left hypochondrium. Ion from the use of physicians was in good, bitter taste it is evident that it was not vital properties elaborated, are prepared from materials in a crude state, but rejected by the system. This analogous transformed condition, was once a luxurious nature, which are necessarily many which, are daily met with. Arterial blood, is not of pure be contain the physical material, from which bile, but a clear, or peculiar to some point, can be found. On the Fluids the is an controvertible proof. We see the hepatic flow, bringing a more sensible portion blood, and from it is intimately secreted, but a much thinner, and milder secretion. In fact we are to the veins, their cathartic properties, the combination of the circumstances in the Colchicum Autumnale, we are induced to admit, the that the use in the constitution, are such, for in them, in fact, as we, with the natural, nor is there is any or doubt." The Vena portarum, is much associated to in urine, in its anatomy, and physiology. been detailed; taken and performing the office, similar, enriched with a large number of the secretions in natural matter and related in its course appears, necessarily will it not for the secretion which Crowell, said to cause from healthy water a

quantity of yellow matter insoluble, albumen, mucus, Soda, muriate of Soda, and lime, Sulphate, Fat, muriate of Soda, and oxide of iron. Thus the two secretions and the urine, from the System, the superfluous Carbon, as supposed by Dell, and Richerand, thereby acting as an auxiliary to the lungs, is a point which is shrouded in obscurity and in the present state of physiological knowledge, defies all theorizing. We are far from attributing to this, insect, unpicture on the foetus, as assigned by Haller, of protecting the heart from the impulses of blood, brought by the Umbilical vein, thus secluding it from, it and [illegible] to [illegible] economy, being with the pancreatic juice, poured into the duodenum, converted by the gastric liquor, into a soft pulp, secondly, called Chyme, produces a chemical action and according to some Physiologists, separates the chylous, from the excrementitious part, and its milder, alkaline, and saline parts, are absorbed by the lacteals, and taken into the circulation. In this knotty controversy, we are by no means solicitous to [illegible] [illegible] but the [illegible] reply, and to prove it, make the following experiment — Take two equal quantities of ox bile, and blood, put them into vessels of the same size, and exposed to the same degree of heat. On the third day the blood began to putrify, the bile remained in its natural state. As the biliary secretion diminished; the discharges from the bowels became

a clay colour.

Of the consideration, as a variety of diseases, to which flesh is heir, none perhaps are much more destructive, and inveterate, than the affections of the Liver. It is a matter of speculation, but such leads to no positive conclusions, why in affections of the lungs, as the patients appear exhausted, noses pared, and pinched, brilliant. The dull pallor in the hectic flush, passes the mind, that of returning health, and vigour; but in diseases of the noble Viscus now under consideration, we perceive the patient's mind as it were overwhelm[illegible] with a dark, and impenetrable cloud, viewing only the sombre side of every picture — a Monk — a perfect Misanthrope in habit, in disposition; the delights of [illegible] society in [illegible] shun; and the gloomy, and discontented being, seeks comfort, and alleviation of his misery in vain, in brooding over his afflictions!! The physiologist seeks in the connection of these viscera with the brain, an explanation of this fact; — his researches however do not assist us in this labyrinth of difficulties [illegible] stand, that in disease, the buoyancy of hope, and vivacity of spirits, is in proportion to the quantity of blood sent to the diseased viscus. In this dilemma, must we not look to the great influence exercised over the mind, by the digestive organs as a principal cause? We know that

an inflammation of the liver, the digestive powers are very much impaired. Louis in his morbid anatomy mentions the presence of tubercles and also a peculiar natural state, and still continued to much the reason of so frequent. These diseased states do not at present claim our attention — to consider them individually, would present a wider range, than is contemplated, or consistent with the time allotted, perhaps this Essay. Suffice it it our intention to make a moment upon the various causes upon which Morton who has written so ably upon the subject, has located in the liver. Nor shall we separate upon the derangements incident to an increased secretion of it. The fact is obscure, and unexplained — We must therefore content ourselves, with culling a few flowers, as we humbly pass along.

Hepatitis. The liver is susceptible both of acute, and chronic inflammation. The former Dr Saunders observes, as being more intimately connected with its arteries, the latter with its secretory system. It is in this case, that the liver, is most frequently affected. The division into acute and chronic, stages is still adhered to, from convenient, and observation has shown therefore it is the distinction. It is probable that acute inflammation is not so common, since the liver does not in the first case, resume their functions, if not upon

which are either epiploic, the peritoneum covering the liver, the ligaments, or the substance of the liver itself — are that when one part becomes affected, the others may successively participate in the disease — and as contrasted with mortal, that from the external signs, pain, and pulse, a correct opinion cannot be formed, whether the substance, or the membranes be inflamed.

Acute hepatitis like other inflammatory diseases, commences with some degree of horripilatio, and rigor, which in some instances are so slight, as not to be observed by the patient. Succeeded by an increased heat, thirst, fever, the hard pulse — nausea — vomiting — dry cough — acute pain in the right side, increased by pressure, extending to the top of the scapula, as stated by Whytt, often between the vertebrae of the neck, and even to the wrist, in consequence of extension — the patient lies with more ease upon his right side, more, perhaps, owing to an increased adhesion of the ligaments, and pain severe, the urine yellow, of the skin and stools clay white, or brown, without the buffy coat which is not known to be consistent in a suppression of the flow, because it appears in long protracted periods, and according to Stevens, is very much influenced by the manner in which it is drawn — the serum also yellow — is scaling or peeling off, a symptom mentioned by Dr Jenksen and

by him ascribed to the quantity, and acrimonious nature of the bile — the pain varies at different parts of the bowels are expected — diminution of the secretions — the urine is secreted in small quantities, and tinged with a saffron — the bowels are either obstinately costive, or exceedingly loose — thereby denoting morbidly increased secretion — the tongue is generally covered with a white crust, and together with the mouth, and fauces, are extremely dry. These symptoms in consequence of the resemblance they bear to other diseases may be the known practitioner be confounded with them: a correct diagnosis however may be formed by attending to the history, and progress of the complaint. The diseases which are mistaken, or probable, are, chronic dysentery, gastritis, nervous pains, and hypochondriasis. It must be distinguished from chronic affections, by the pain appearing at a certain period, and being more tolerable — respiration more difficult — pain in the shoulders, and pain on pressure to the hypochondria — the stomach not affected. From gastritis, it is the tongue or breath, the pain in the stomach is intermittent, and the irritation so great that a strong narcotic must, can be tolerated. In nervous pains, under more frequent, the bowels. From nervous pains, by their being much increased by change of position, and alternating with rheumatic pains, in one, or more of

[illegible] pains. From [illegible], by the pain being seated in the lumbar region, and a retraction of the testicle, on the side affected, and a frequent inclination to void the urine. The causes of such nephritis are either predisposing or exciting. The predisposing causes are 1st A residence in a warm climate which appears to act [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. 2d [illegible] the [illegible] are more [illegible] to the influence of the causes, the great [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible]. 3d The [illegible], which is a predisposing cause of the [illegible] of [illegible]. 4th We are informed by a gentleman of [illegible] [illegible] that nephritis [illegible] appears among Soldiers, Sailors, and persons living in military camps, and prisoners who have been restricted to salt food. 5th Sanguine temperament. The exciting causes of nephritis are 1st sudden changes of weather [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cases of such in certain seasons, the United States and more especially in the northern section of our country. 2d Cold. 3d [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. 4th Extension of inflammation from neighbouring tissues. 5th Violent exhibitions of [illegible] upon the individual, while in a state of perspiration. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] injuries. The inflammation [illegible] [illegible] be

either of these modes, blood crowds to the part, the glands become enlarged, and a quantity of coagulable lymph is thrown out, and unfortunately for the patient, connects the liver with some neighbouring viscus. The symptoms of fever and local pain continue, vomiting is increased, rapid fall for a few days, abscess forms which burst, slow may contain several pints of matter, and in some instances we can see the liver completely emptied. People have but one case which recovered after abscess had formed. After it burst, or if it be opened, the pus suppuration has been arrested, in the stomach, the colon, the side may be considered safe, both from common and uncommon accidents. This is indeed a humiliating confession to be made, but man is eminent for his glorious attainments and abilities. When suppuration takes place on the convex surface, adhesions having been previously formed, the matter points externally, and may be evacuated by an incision thro the parietes of the abdomen. When resting in contact with the diaphragm, the pus destroying the membrane under the thorax, pierces the pleura, and is discharged by the mouth. A remarkable case of this kind we witnessed a few months since, in the City Hospital. The patient was suddenly becoming emaciated, low, skin assumed a yellow hue, pulse rather quick, full, and soft, night sweats, and other symptoms of debility were observed

The treatment [illegible] to the character of the [illegible] symptoms. The [illegible] to be [illegible] in [illegible] This [illegible] in the [illegible] was [illegible] the physician having entered upon the prescribed duties of the Institution, [illegible] a diaphoretic [illegible] the patient was bled [illegible] [illegible] several pints [illegible] to, ultimately [illegible] If [illegible] to the inflammation or [illegible] attended with comparatively little [illegible] or to the [illegible] communicates the pus is discharged by the bowels [illegible] not much inconvenience [illegible] or the matter may be effused into the Cavity of the Abdomen which [illegible] take place, [illegible] [illegible] concealed. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] symptoms of hectic fever. [illegible] which [illegible] can be [illegible] case.

Treatment [illegible]

[illegible] inflammation action, [illegible] action, [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible]

demanded. Bleeding may be repeated three or even four times, in the twenty four hours. [illegible] Leeches, or sixteen ounces, abstracted each time from a large orifice. 2nd Cathartics as Sulphas Sodae, or Magnesiae ℥ [illegible] [illegible] as [illegible] gr. xx [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] gr. x [illegible] [illegible]. 3rd Blisters, [illegible] to [illegible] subdued. These should be large [illegible] a [illegible] suggestion of [illegible] then [illegible] character [illegible] a single [illegible]. 4th [illegible] use of [illegible] and [illegible]. Mercury in any form, is highly mischievous when used in the [illegible] inflammatory stage of [illegible]. In some [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] stimulants must not [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] with other [illegible], [illegible] the. 5th Warm Bath [illegible] Bath might [illegible] [illegible]. The diet should be [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible], but [illegible] the addition of [illegible]. [illegible] but [illegible] [illegible] the inflammatory character

chronic hepatitis. Such is the [illegible] [illegible] of the liver that it may labour under a chronic affection, and no indications be afforded of the trouble [illegible] it is committing upon the system. Persons have been [illegible] of other [illegible], and when the liver was examined it furnished nothing but a [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] and we are surprised, that the system could have borne up under the protracted action of an organ maintaining so [illegible] a rank in the human economy. I shall [illegible] the symptoms of chronic hepatitis [illegible] [illegible] them, but not the [illegible] [illegible], that must be [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible]. Symptoms of Chronic Hepatitis. The disease commences, and advances in an insidious manner — the [illegible] [illegible] and attended with a sense of weight in the right hypochondriac [illegible] [illegible] of the shoulder — slight [illegible] [illegible] the secretion of [illegible] [illegible] — the pulse is [illegible] of an [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible], and [illegible] dyspepsia [illegible] restlessness — the patient becomes impatient of the stimulus of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] upon the right side. lying upon the left [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] dreams frequent and disturbing, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] upon [illegible], [illegible] the [illegible] of the

chest, from the great enlargement of the liver, which in one case is stated by Portal to have weighed forty pounds, the tongue, and lips, from the [illegible] of inflammation will be covered with a [illegible] — the skin is tinged with a yellowness, as is also the [illegible] [illegible]; the stools resemble clay coloured, from the want of bile, or of a dark brown from the [illegible] of the bile bladder [illegible] [illegible] and irritability of the stomach, nausea, vomiting, sometimes a dry cough, [illegible] tumor of the side [illegible]; the patient should be placed upon his back and [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] much increased as to extend to the left hypochondrium. The spleen may become enlarged from the great accumulation of blood to that organ. The liver may also be enlarged. [illegible] by Physiologists [illegible] congestion, from a congestion of blood that [illegible], when the [illegible] [illegible] an obstruction [illegible] between the left ventricle and when the pulmonary arteries [illegible] connected with the [illegible] of the system [illegible], which occur on an [illegible] contraction of the arteries.

Causes. The chronic inflammation of the liver like the ac-

[illegible] complicated, and [illegible] manifest [illegible] of intrinsic, and [illegible] of [illegible]. 1st When [illegible] inflammation of the liver is not [illegible] subsides, the disease [illegible] becomes chronic. The effect of the action, especially when protracted for considerable time, must necessarily be [illegible] in all [illegible] structure of the part — [illegible] other parts, [illegible] inflammation — this [illegible] and composition [illegible] the [illegible] substance of the liver [illegible] out by the veins — thus [illegible] produces, from the great [illegible] of the [illegible] of the [illegible] portal [illegible] absorption, will not [illegible] be [illegible] 2d In [illegible] of the [illegible] — the [illegible] mental emotions at [illegible] period, [illegible] more [illegible] displayed by Scalamon and Chiro [illegible] for the success of [illegible] expression, upon the functions of the stomach, and liver, are [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] It appears that [illegible] is [illegible] by [illegible] for a [illegible] state of the stomach — the [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible], and [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

3d and is illustrated by the Emanations of Spontaneous Spirits
the habitual and prudent Dread of Spirits upon
wanderers in the Regions of Pleasure and Darkness and
Fire; to an incredible point. Beams and that is Incle
nous Dreams of Existence in his System a most for
midable Death, even in our own Time, most remarkable
Later Scream. Upon the Surface of Person his
unknown Forced, in order intended the fable
Dreadfully, she was painted in Shining and Fire known
when Moth was supposed to inflammable Spirit
Produced by Pyrotechnics, Scene the Emanations of Pin
Shines, and was at the Dangerous Moth, and Salt of her
Brother. But the Light and Shadow of Shine the
Second Period of Letter Emanations the Hour and
Shining and Letter the Moral, Lessons and
Must under Human Notable Dreams." Hindrance and
Inferno the Carpenter Kitchen. Frother is inclined to
think, not Phenomena when the Fire, and Blood, and in
that was and Some Share in Pictures Hospital Dreams.
It may encourage to Continue the Generation of Letters
Scene, and the Direction to Dreadfully, which pre
vail in the Conclusions of Infinite. But distinction
Dreams Drawing from the Hospital are not Disposed to
Another. For Dreams, the Revolutions Dark and Thus
Time a most Spirited Odour and Determine Tears

much to doubt the correctness of the mode, in which these substances, make a marked impression upon the urine, is explained by [illegible]. In consequence of the ingestion of Spirituous liquors into the stomach, and [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] stimulated to [illegible] action, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but as all parts of the body that have been affected with stronger stimuli, are thus [illegible] to the influence of [illegible] weaker stimuli, it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] much [illegible], during the [illegible] of [illegible] this [illegible] not only lately, and in considerable [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. This is the explanation of the [illegible] [illegible] of a phenomenon, so brought with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] [illegible] question of that [illegible] in [illegible] pains. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] pains [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] chronic inflammation not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the System, and these [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] circulation in the [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]

ducts, and interruption to the biliary secretion. 2d. A defective, or irregular peristaltic motion must ensue, when the peristaltic motion of the intestines is unnaturally slow, because the chyme is not presented in a proper manner, to the mouths of the lacteals. From this source alone must arise a considerable share of that debility, and emaciation occurring [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] chronic cases, must take [illegible] distribution [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible] towards the [illegible] [illegible]. The alimentary canal suffers from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but from this source, [illegible] these [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] sensations throughout the alimentary canal. 3d. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] cannot but [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from this source arise headaches, and [illegible] affect the [illegible] is often kept up [illegible] [illegible] induced in the circulation. 4th. A vitiated secretion of [illegible] altered state of the intestines [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] contributes to the distress, and [illegible] dejection. — The [illegible] occasionally [illegible] [illegible] and obstruct in a very considerable degree

the [illegible] and the [illegible] is [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] from the [illegible] to the [illegible] in consequence [illegible] the bile becomes inspissated, and gorges the [illegible] vessels; at other times prevents the bile from [illegible] downwards, causing a regurgitation of it into the stomach which either excites sick head aches, or bilious vomitings. When in a torpid state of the biliary secretion there is very frequently an absorption into the blood, producing that peculiar yellowness of the skin, called by Linnæus bombycinous. Terminations of Chronic Hepatitis. Determinates 1st In Ascites produced most probably, by the impediment thrown in the way of the return of blood, thro' the Vena Portarum, by the enlarged liver. 2d In Anasarca, the consequence of great debility of the absorbents, and pressure of the liver upon the Vena Cava. 3d In the Hæmorrhoids. 4th In extensive Abscesses. 5th In Schirrus. The peculiarities of the liver in this morbid affection have been already explained. Treatment. Blood letting should first be premised — the lancet must not however be wielded with such an inexperienced hand as in a recent form of the disease. Small bleedings and frequently repeated, to be regulated by the symptoms will prove most efficacious. 2d Cathartics — Saline, and Mercurial

as Glauber, and Epsom Salts or Calomel, and Jalap com-
[illegible] or [illegible] of Cream of Tartar, and Jalap. These
not only reduce arterial action, but vent much de-
[illegible] the congestion of the liver. In some dis-
eases, purging may be carried to an almost incredi-
ble extent — and the patient who is subjected to
these profuse evacuations, so far from being debilitated
and sinking, [illegible] improves. We should therefore with-
out hesitation, evacuate the bowels of our patient, even
[illegible] with one of the above mentioned Cathartics
if the abdomen, and right hypochondrium were much
distended and the powers of the system could sustain
such vigorous treatment. 3d. Small Doses of Antimoni-
al Powder, and Calomel — which not only evacuate the
bowels, promote diaphoresis, but [illegible] to the liver. 4th The application of Cups, is also advanta-
geous. 5th But the most important topical Applica-
tion is Blisters, kept continually discharging by being
dressed with Mercurial Ointment, or a succession of
them. Blisters in some species of fever, appear to act
[illegible] patients feelings. In hepatitis they act probably by
stimulating, and then evacuating topically. 6th Tetanus.
7th These remedies failing to eradicate the complaint, we
should appeal to the Dispensary of the Materia Medica

Mercury" – this medicine in its operation upon the sys-
-tem, exerts a wider pervading influence, than any other –
and has been supposed to act specifically, upon the glan-
-dular, and absorbent systems. It is a point that has
been much agitated, and canvassed, but assuredly cannot
impart any magic influence to our remedies, why medi-
-cines should select with an apparent fastidiousness, one
system of vessels rather another, upon which to exert their
peculiar powers. The patient should be subjected to a
slight Ptyalism – during which, he should be protected from
the deleterious consequences of the vicissitudes of the weather,
and not venture out of his room, if the atmosphere be
cold, or damp. Exercise in the open air, if the febrile
excitement be moderate, and the weather mild, will
be highly serviceable. If debility prohibits the exhibi-
-tion of calomel, which we consider the most eligible
form of mercury, the tone of the system must be restored
by nutritious, and moderately stimulant animal food, –
this being effected, our medicine should be resorted to, and
persevered in – about one drachm of Mercurial Ointment,
rubbed upon the right hypochondrium, or thighs, may
be conjoined, to accelerate the ptyalism. Nitric acid
has attained a considerable reputation in Chronic hepatitis –
One, to four drachms may be taken in divided doses, in
the twenty four hours – A pleasant formula is, to make

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it into a Julep, with mucilage of Gum arabic, and Mint, or Lavender Water, with Loaf Sugar. If acidities in the primae Viae should exist, give the fixed alkalies as a solution of Carbonate of Sodae, or what is preferable, carbonate of potash in solution, or made into Pills, with Rhubarb - or Magnesia. All inflammatory symptoms having been completely removed; we should now call into our aid, Tonics - as Colomba, the Bitter Infusion, and Decoction, the Tincture of Bark in Port Wine, the various preparations of Iron, Cold Bath, generous Diet, Porter, Brandy, and Water, Exercise, Agreable Company - Mineral Waters, into whose composition, Iron, and the neutral Salts enter - and finally a Journey, which is exceedingly well calculated by the gestation it affords, diversified scenes presented, mingling with the world, alternately borne upon the pinions of hope, and expectation to beguile the lonely way, and prevent our patient from sinking into a state of Ennui, which degenerates into Melancholy, than which, nothing has a greater tendency to mar the enjoyments of life, and infuse into the Cup of domestic tranquillity, the baneful ingredients of discontentment, and jealousy

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